

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached is a complete set of new drawing sheets and a marked up version of Figure 3 showing changes made to that figure. Approval of the new drawing sheets is requested.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1 to 6 are pending and claims 7 to 9 have been withdrawn.

The specification and Figure 3 have been amended to overcome the objection to the drawings. In particular, the second description of Figure 14 at paragraph 0024 has been deleted. Corrections have been made to the drawings to resolve the drawing objections. Reference numeral 1209 has been added to Figure 3 and to paragraph 0036. The missing reference numbers identified in the Action have been added to the specification. These added reference numerals are believed to overcome the remaining objections to the drawings.

The rejection of claims 1 to 6 as being anticipated by Castle et al (US Patent 5,237,864) is traversed. Independent claim 1 has been amended to state that the spring is fixed directly to the load cell. The spring shown in Castle is not fixed directly to the load cell. The spring (13) shown in Castle biases the fulcrum (20) in a closed position and is not used to apply a force to the load cell. The Castle spring is fixed to a housing which also contains the load cell 30. However, fixing the spring to the housing does not constitute fixing the spring to the load cell.

New claims 10 to 12 have been added that depend on claim 1. The claims further distinguish Castle et al which does not disclose a spring fixed to both the load cell and scale beam (claim 10), a spring directly fixed to the load cell and an opposite end of the spring directly fixed to the scale beam (claim 11) or a spring that applies a force to a side of the load cell that is distal to the housing (claim 12). In contrast to claim 12, Castle et al shows both the load cell and spring attached to the housing and does not teach coupling a spring to a side of a load cell distal from the housing. Support for the new claims is in paragraphs 0037 of the specification.

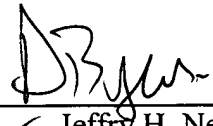
O'Mahony et al
Appl. No. 10/807,370
May 12, 2006

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any issue remains, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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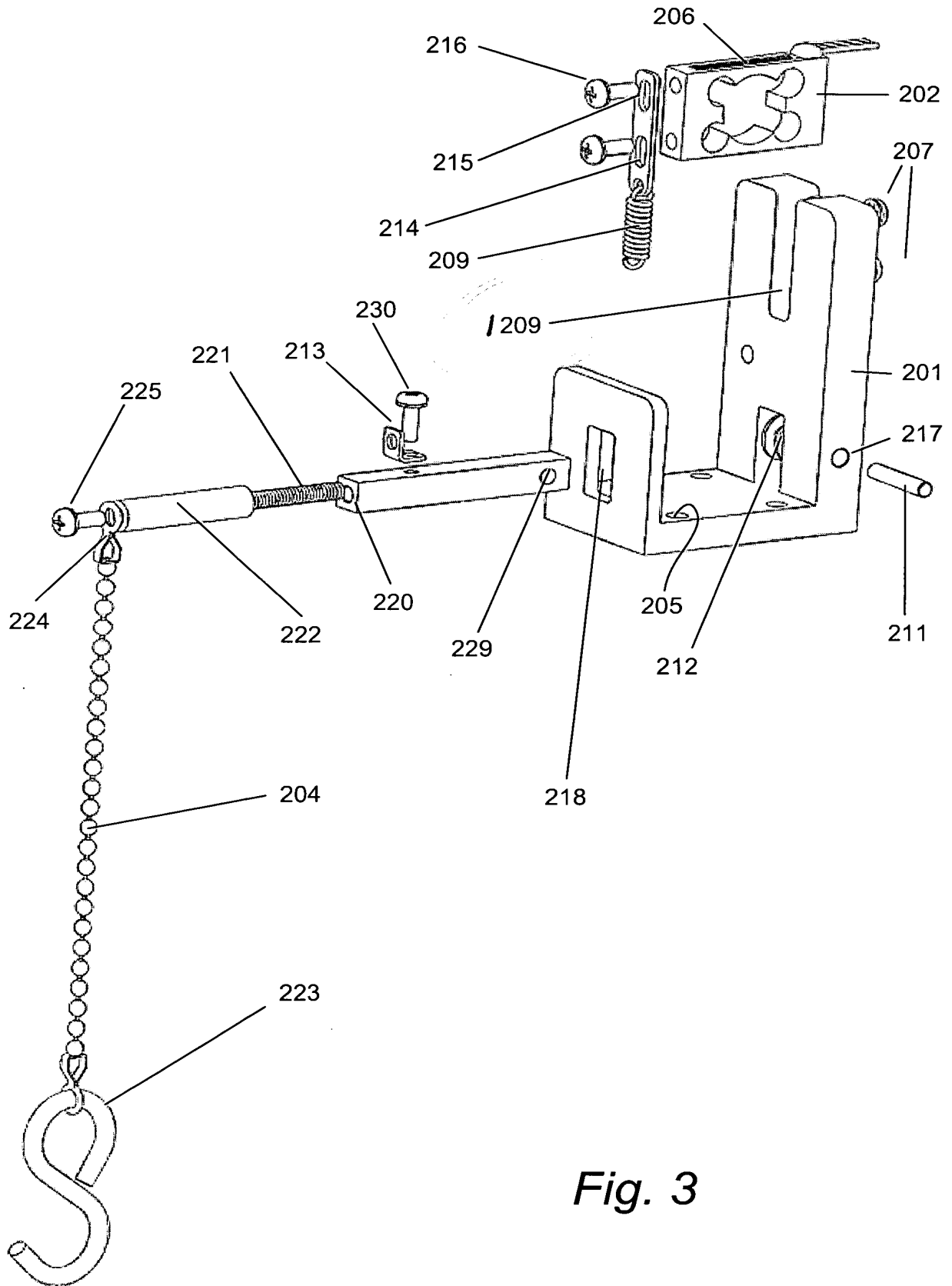


Fig. 3